

INFANT/TODDLER SPECIALIST NETWORKS



MAY 16, 2006 • ROOMS 327/328/329 • BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

An Emerging Strategy to Support Caregivers in Providing High Quality Care to Infants and Toddlers

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome: Speakers:	Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks Across the Country Shannon Rudisill , Director of Technical Assistance, <i>Child Care Bureau</i> Paul Noski , Project Officer, <i>Child Care Bureau</i> Anne Goldstein , Project Director, <i>National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative</i>
9:30 – 10:45	Opening Plenary: Moderator: Speakers:	Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks: The Emerging Art and Science Tammy Mann , Deputy Director, <i>ZERO TO THREE</i> Sharon L. Ramey , Director, <i>Center on Health and Education, Georgetown University</i> Jane Weiler , Program Manager, <i>Child Care/Early Development, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Service</i> Alicia Leatherman , Executive Director, <i>Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association</i>
	Description:	The Opening Plenary brings together the emerging knowledge base on Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks from research, policy, and practice. Panelists will address why states have chosen to develop Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks, promising approaches for supporting child care provider training and professional development, and how caregiver practice impacts quality of care and outcomes for babies and toddlers.
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Breakout Sessions A. Responsive Caregiving: Working with Caregivers to Meet the Developmental Needs of Babies, Toddlers and Their Families Speakers: Facilitator: Target Audience: Description:	Lisa Henley , Infant/Toddler Network Coordinator, <i>Better Baby Care, Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral</i> Terry Ann Lunt , Executive Director, <i>Brazelton Touchpoints Center</i> Karen Alexander McGinley , Consultant, <i>National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative</i> Infant/Toddler Specialists; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators Infant/Toddler Specialists play a key role in supporting caregivers in providing responsive care. In this interactive session, participants will learn about specific strategies – including the Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (PITC) and Touchpoints – to convey effective and responsive caregiving practice to infant/toddler caregivers. Participants will also receive information about a variety of resources to support caregivers' knowledge and skill development around the essentials of relationship-based care.

Sponsored by: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau and ZERO TO THREE



11:00 – 12:30

Breakout Sessions (continued)

B. The Multifaceted Roles of Infant/Toddler Specialists and Network Coordinators

Speakers: **Jolene Crosswhite**, Child Care/Infant/Toddler Administrator, *Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe (North Dakota)*
Kathy Schwartz, Infant/Toddler Statewide Training Coordinator, *South Dakota State University*

Facilitator: **Susan Medina**, Information & Training Specialist, *National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative*

Target Audience: CCDF Program Administration Staff; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators; Infant/Toddler Specialists

Description: Infant/Toddler Specialists may function in many roles including trainer, mentor, coach, technical assistance provider, community leader and advocate for babies. This session will explore the key roles and responsibilities of Infant/Toddler Specialists and Network Coordinators, and will consider job descriptions, caseloads, and the type and amount of support specialists provide in their various roles.

C. Design and Infrastructure for Developing and Sustaining Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks

Speakers: **Leadell Ediger**, Executive Director, *Kansas Association of Resource and Referral Agencies*
Janet Poole, Director, *California Partners for Quality*
Jan Gross, Public Health Nurse, *Healthy Child Care Washington*

Facilitator: **Karen Heying**, State Program Specialist, *National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative*

Target Audience: CCDF Program Administration Staff; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators

Description: In this session, participants will explore what to consider in designing, implementing, and sustaining Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks. Varied experiences and lessons learned by states that currently operate Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks will be presented. Participants will leave this session with a framework to help guide their efforts to establish an infant/toddler specialist network in their State, Territory, or Tribe.

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00

Breakout Sessions

A. Mentoring, Coaching, and Reflective Practice

Speakers: **Linda Gillespie**, Senior Training Specialist, *ZERO TO THREE*
Cecelia Alvarado, Early Childhood Education Consultant

Facilitator: **Judith Davis**, Program Associate, *National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative*

Target Audience: Infant/Toddler Specialists; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators

Description: This session will provide practical ideas and strategies for understanding the role of mentoring and coaching caregivers. A cornerstone of this session will be exploring the importance of relationships and reflection in working with caregivers of culturally diverse backgrounds.

B. Professional Development Systems to Support the Infant/Toddler Workforce

Speakers:	Kathie Boling , Statewide Infant/Toddler Project Manager, <i>North Carolina Division of Child Development</i> Karen White , Statewide Infant/Toddler Technical Assistance Specialist, <i>Office of Child Care and Head Start, Maine Department of Human Services</i> Betsy Farley , Director, <i>Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services</i>
Facilitator:	Dianne Stetson , State Program Specialist, <i>National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative</i>
Target Audience:	CCDF Program Administration Staff; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators; Infant/Toddler Specialists
Description:	The training and technical assistance offered by Infant/Toddler Specialists is an integral part of a system of career development for the infant/toddler workforce. Participants in this session will learn about how the Infant/Toddler Specialist and the services they provide can fit into the broader professional development system. Presenters will discuss the conditions for successful coordination with state systems, including higher education. This session will also consider the professional development needs of Infant/Toddler Specialists and what types of professional development opportunities can meet those needs.

1:30 – 3:00

Breakout Sessions (continued)

C. Coordinating Technical Assistance and Consultation: A Multi-Disciplinary Systems Approach

Speakers:	Evelyn Efinger , Infant/Toddler Project Coordinator, <i>New York State Child Care Coordinating Council</i> Alicia Leatherman , Executive Director, <i>Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association</i> Linda Lembke , Program Director, Child Care Resource and Referral, <i>Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc. (North Dakota)</i>
Facilitator:	Karen Heying , State Program Specialist, <i>National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative</i>
Target Audience:	CCDF Program Administration Staff; Infant/Toddler Specialist Network Coordinators
Description:	Caregivers may have access to support from a variety of consultative and technical assistance efforts. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss how multiple services, including health, mental health, and child care resource and referral, can be brought together to support high quality care for infants and toddlers.

3:00 – 3:15

Break

3:15 – 4:15

Closing Dialogue:	Connecting Babies and Toddlers to the Early Care and Education System
Speakers:	Shannon Christian , Associate Commissioner, <i>Child Care Bureau</i> Mary Smithberger , Child Development Consultant, <i>California Department of Education</i> Gail Crawford , Infant/Toddler Network Coordinator, <i>Tennessee Department of Human Services</i> Jeanne Fiscus , Infant/Toddler Specialist, <i>Kansas</i>
Description:	Infant/Toddler Specialists play an important role in improving the quality of care for babies and toddlers. The closing dialogue will illuminate how statewide Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks can serve as a lever to help strengthen and support the early care and education system.